

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T STATE 083689

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CG

SUBJECT: U.S. AID TO ZAIRE

1. YOU SHOULD INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT THAT USG HAS TAKEN
DECISION TO PROVIDE DOLLARS 13 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL NON-
LETHAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, TO INCLUDE ONE C-130
AIRCRAFT, COMMUNICATIONS GEAR, AND SPARE PARTS FOR AIR-
CRAFT AND VEHICLES. WE ALSO PROPOSE TO ACCELERATE IMPE-
MENTATION OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED COMMODITY IMPORT AND PL-
480 PROGRAMS AND TAKE STEPS TO ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL
GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE BANKING COMMUNITIES TO BE UNDER
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STANDING OF ZAIRE'S PRESENT DIFFICULTIES, AND THEIR POSSI-
BLE IMPACT ON ITS INDEBTEDNESS.

2. YOU SHOULD USE OCCASION TO ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION OF
SITUATION AS IT MAY EVOLVE IN THE SHABA, INCLUDING DECI-
SIONS WITH WHICH BELGIANS, FRENCH AND MOROCCANS EXPECT TO
BE FACED IN COMING WEEKS.

3. IN COURSE YOUR CONTACTS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS YOU SHOULD MAKE USE OF FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONHS WHICH MAY AFFECT FUTURE COURSE OF EVENTS.

A) ASSISTANCE BY MOROCCO, BELGIUM, FRANCE AND U.S. CAN

HELP STABILIZE MILITARY SITUATION WHICH COULD IN TURN ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATION/MEDIATION PROCESS.

B) HOWEVER, CLEAR MILITARY SUPERIORITY MAY TEMPT SOME TO FORCE KATANGAN ROUT AND/OR PUSH THEM BACK INTO ANGOLA. WHETHER ANGOLANS OR CUBANS MIGHT INTERVENE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MERITS SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

C) WORST POSSIBILITY WOULD BE DECISION TO PURSUE KATANGANS OVER ANGOLAN BORDER OR SANCTION AND HELP FNLA OR FLEC TO STEP UP OPERATIONS INTO ANGOLA. WE ASSUME THAT ALL PARTIES ARE AWARE OF DANGER OF SUCH A COURSE AND ARE DETERMINED TO AVOID IT.

D) RETURN OF KATANGANS TO ANGOLA OR GOING UNDERGROUND IN THEIR OWN TRIBAL AREA OF SHABA RISKS REPETITION OF PRESENT SITUATION OR CONTINUING INSURGENCY COMPLICATED BY PRESENCE OF LUNDAS ON BOTH SIDES OF ANGOLAN-ZAIRE BORDER. THIS MAY ARGUE FOR CONSIDERATION OF SOME KIND OF INTERNAL RECONCILIATION PERMITTING KATANGANS TO BE REINTEGRATED INTO ZAIRE, IN SOME WAY, WITHOUT THREAT OF REPRISALS.

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E) EFFECTIVE MEDIATION EFFORT WILL PROBABLY NEED TO DEAL WITH ANGOLA'S CHARGES THAT ZAIRE HAS NEVER CEASED ACTING AS A HAVEN AND BASE FOR FNLA AND FLEC INSURGENTS. EVEN IF NEITHER NETO NOR MOBUTU ARE NOW PREPARED TO SETTLE ALL OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES IT SEEMS TO US THAT SERIOUS EFFORT MUST BE MADE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY IN CENTRAL AFRICA. THIS LENDS ADDITIONAL IMPORTANCE TO NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORTS.

F) THE SITUATION HAS ONLY AGGRAVATED THE ECONOMIC MALAISE. ON A TECHNICAL LEVEL, WE NEED TO DECIDE WHAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE INVASION ARE FOR THE TIMING AND SUBSTANCE OF THE PARIS CLUB DEBT RESCHEDULING TALKS AND FOR THE WORLD BANK CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTAL AID FOR ZAIRE. IN THIS CONNECTION WE WELCOME FRENCH AND AFRICAN INITIATIVE IN REQUESTING ACCELERATED CONSIDERATION OF NEW IMF STANDBY AGREEMENT, AND OUR REPRESENTATIVE IS BEING INSTRUCTED TO VOTE IN FAVOR.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HOST GOVERNMENTS' COMMENTS ON OUR
GENERAL VIEWS, IF EMBASSIES CAN ELICIT VIEWS
WITHOUT APPEARING TO MAKE FORMAL DEMARCHE.
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